(e) The basic customs duty on pulses was 10% during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and for part of 2006-07. With effect from 8th June, 2006 pulses have been fully exempted from customs duty.

Human Rights Meet on SEZs

3672. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media report titled Rights meet to focus on SEZs in Asia; if so, whether Government have received an invitation to attend the proposed meet on SEZs and human rights;

(b) whether Government have noted the concern of SAARC activists on poor farmers and Backward Classes suffering due to SEZs;

(c) the steps proposed to review the human rights violations of farmers affected by SEZs; and

(d) the details of steps being proposed to reduce human rights violations of poor and Backward Class farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per available information, no such invitation has been received.

(b) to (d) Various issues and petitions concerning the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy have been considered by the Government and it has been decided that pending applications for SEZs may be processed for in principle & formal approvals and notifications subject to the condition that the State Governments would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs. Further, it has been decided to fix the upper limit of the area required for multi products SEZs at 5000 hectares with the provision that the State Governments may prescribe a lower limit and to fix the minimum processing area limit uniformly at 50% for multi product SEZs as well as sector specific SEZs. Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to address

all relevant issues and also to work out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

Trade with Myanmar

3673. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of trade between India and Myanmar during the last three years, commodity-wise and money-wise; and

(b) whether the Myanmar our second largest neighbour, there is great scope for mutual trade and commerce relation; if so, what steps Government propose to adopt, especially in view of cordial visit of our Minister of External Affairs in January, 2007 to have more meaningful and purposeful export and import thrust with Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Desired information is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) There is great scope for mutual trade and commerce relations with Myanmar, a very important neighbour for India. The External Affairs Minister paid an official visit to Myanmar from 19-21 January 2007. During his meetings with the Myanmar leadership, the full range of bilateral relations was discussed including measures to enhance trade between India and Myanmar. The policy matters in respect of increasing bilateral trade between India and Myanmar were discussed in detail in Second Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting held in May 2006 where the JTC mandated both governments to initiate necessary action for the opening of the third border post at Pangsau Pass and also to include additional products in the trade basket.